

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P R 311630Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2646
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 0797

FOR EDWARD MEZVINSKY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UNHCR
SUBJECT: ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS FOR UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
(HRC) SESSION

REF (A) STATE 22421, (B) STATE 22442, (C) STATE 24837,
(D) STATE 22819, (E) STATE 18330, (F) DAKAR 646

1. SUMMARY: SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT MBAYE (WHO WILL HEAD
SENZALESE DELEGATION AND CHAIR FORTHCOMING HRC SESSION)
LOOKS FORWARD TO CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.
COLLEAGUES AND HAS PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR BEVERLY CARTER'S
RE-ELECTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR

HUMAN RIGHTS, THOUGH HE IS RELUCTANT TO ENDORSE U.S. STAND
ON 1503 PROCEDURES. HE HOPES SESSION CAN AVOID POLEMICS
ON MIDDLE EAST AND SOTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

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2. PER REFTTEL (A) I HAD MEETING JANUARY 31 WITH SUPREME
COURT PRESIDENT KEBBA MBAYE WHO IS SENEGAL'S DELEGATE TO
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AS WELL AS TH COMMISSION'S
CURRENT CHAIRMAN.

3. I TOLD MBAYE THAT YOU LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HIM
SOON AFTER ARRIVAL IN GENEVA AND HAVING A CLOSE WORKING

RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM DURING THE FORTHCOMING HRC SESSION. I ALSO SAID THAT YOU HAD ASKED ME TO CONTACT HIM IN ADVANCE OF MEETING TO CONVEY MAIN LINES OF US THINKING ON KEY ISSUES AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS DURING THE SESSION. AFTER GOING OVER THE MAIN POINTS AS TRANSMITTED REFTEL (B), I GAVE MBAYE AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH PROVIDES GREATER DETAILS. I ALSO GAVE HIM A COPY OF OUR ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SENEGAL (PER REFS D AND E) WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PUT HIM IN A GOOD MOOD.

4. MBAYE TOLD ME THAT HE RECIPROCATES YOUR DESIRE FOR A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH LOWENSTEIN LAST YEAR WITH IMPORTANT MUTUAL BENEFITS.

5. ON THE INDIVIDUAL ISSUES, MBAYE SAID THAT THE US AND SENEGAL ARE BASICALLY ON THE SAME Wavelength ON EVERYTHING, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME NUANCES THAT SEPARATE US ON SPECIFIC POINTS. HE THEN WENT OVER EACH ISSUE STARTING WITH THE EASIEST:

-- SENEGAL WILL SUPPORT BEVERLY CARTER'S RE-ELECTION TO THE SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

-- SENEGAL WILL SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
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POST OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. MBAYE NOTED THAT SENEGAL IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL CO-SPONSORS OF THE PROPOSAL.

-- ON SOUTH AFRICAN, MBAYE SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEM, AND HOPES THAT THE COMMISSION CAN AVOID POLEMICS ON THE METHODS TO BRING ABOUT AN END TO APARTHEID, A DEBATE THAT REALLY BELONGS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE SAID THAT PROCEDURES MIGHT BE IN OUR FAVOR THIS YEAR BECAUSE THE COMMISSION WILL BE DEALING ONLY WITH AN INTERIM REPORT THAT WILL FOCUS SPECIFICALLY ON THE PLIGHT OF DETAINEES. THE MAIN REPORT ON APARTHEID IS MADE EVERY TWO YEARS, AND 1978 IS IN BETWEEN TWO MAIN REPORTS.

-- ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION, MBAYE SAID THAT THE NATURE OF THE DEBATE IS ALWAYS LINKED TO WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING IN THE REGION. HE IS HOPING THAT A CONSENSUS WILL DEVELOP THAT WILL CALL FOR A SHORT NON-PASSIONATE DEBATE IN THE INTEREST OF NOT DOING HARM TO THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS. HE THEN SHOOK HIS HEAD AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE MIDDLE EAST IS THE MOST UNPREDICTABLE AREA,

AND ONE NEVER KNOWS WHAT THE PROTAGONISTS ARE GOING TO
COME UP WITH. HE CITED CYPRUS AS AN ANALOGOUS PROBLEM.

-- ON 1503 PROCEDURES, MBAYE SEEMED RELUCTANT TO
ENDORSE OUR STAND. HIS MAIN WORRY IS WHAT HE CALLS
THE DIFFICULTY OF OVERLAPPING CONFIDENTIAL ENQUIRIES AND
THE HANDLING OF PUBLIC COMPLAINTS. HE DPFI NOT HAVE TIME
TO GO INTO DETAIL, BUT I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS
SUBJECT WILL REQUIRE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PERSUASION ON
YOUR PART INVOLVING EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

6 CHAIRMAN MBAYE SAID HE WOULD BE STAYING AT THE
EPSOM HOTEL.
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